

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Towns County Youth Football camp

Photos by Todd Forrest



## Chatuge Shores Ladies get a do-over

For anyone who has ever played golf, the chance for a "do-over" seems too good to be true. But that's what the format for the week of July 12, 2016, offered the ladies of Chatuge Shores.

In this two-week "Eclectic" tournament, the player can select her best 18-holes from two rounds of play. So if that fell on Number 9, or the pond on Number 10, added a few unwanted strokes to this week's card, there's a chance to better that number by improving next week.

In short, there's a chance for a "do-over."

Most of the 27 golfers who played this week are eager to get out again, savoring that opportu-



Judy Schmitt, Tournament Chair, gives last-minute instructions before the day's play.

who showed her game was still sharp by immediately taking the honor of low putts.

The Chatuge Shores Ladies Golf Association boasts a membership of more than 40, but always welcomes new players. If interested in joining, call 828-389-0919.

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## VFW Golf League

Last week's event at Chatuge Shores Golf Course was won with a score of 10 under par. The winning team consisted of Nancy Hasley, Phil Stone and Covel Yellina. Congratulations guys and gal.

## Towns County Youth Football League 2016 schedule

### 2016 Smokey Mountain Youth Football League Schedule

Regular Season Games & Crackerbowl Times:		Pee Wees Mites	11:00 AM 1:30 PM	Termites Midgets	12:00 PM 3:00 PM
<b>AUGUST 13th</b>					
Andrews	at	Towns Co.			
Robbinsville	at	Murphy			
Swain Co.	at	Cherokee			
Franklin	at	Jackson Co.			
Copper Basin	at	Hayesville			
<b>AUGUST 20th</b>					
Towns Co.	at	Franklin			
Jackson Co.	at	Murphy			
Robbinsville	at	Swain Co.			
Hayesville	at	Andrews			
Cherokee	at	Copper Basin			
<b>AUGUST 27th</b>					
Swain Co.	at	Murphy			
Cherokee	at	Jackson Co.			
Andrews	at	Robbinsville			
Hayesville	at	Franklin			
Copper Basin	at	Towns Co.			
<b>SEPTEMBER 3rd</b>					
Hayesville	at	Towns Co.			
Murphy	at	Cherokee			
Jackson Co.	at	Swain			
Andrews	at	Franklin			
Robbinsville	at	Copper Basin			
<b>SEPTEMBER 10th</b>					
Towns Co.	at	Robbinsville			
Hayesville	at	Jackson Co.			
Cherokee	at	Andrews			
Murphy	at	Franklin			
Copper Basin	at	Swain Co.			
<b>SEPTEMBER 17th</b>					
Jackson Co.	at	Towns Co.			
Swain Co.	at	Andrews			
Cherokee	at	Hayesville			
Franklin	at	Robbinsville			
Copper Basin	at	Murphy			
<b>SEPTEMBER 24th</b>					
Towns Co.	at	Swain Co.			
Andrews	at	Murphy			
Franklin	at	Cherokee			
Robbinsville	at	Hayesville			
Jackson Co.	at	Copper Basin			
<b>OCTOBER 1st</b>					
Murphy	at	Towns Co.			
Swain Co.	at	Hayesville			
Cherokee	at	Robbinsville			
Jackson Co.	at	Andrews			
Copper Basin	at	Franklin			
<b>OCTOBER 8th</b>					
Towns Co.	at	Cherokee			
Murphy	at	Hayesville			
Robbinsville	at	Jackson Co.			
Franklin	at	Swain Co.			
Andrews	at	Copper Basin			
<b>OCTOBER 13TH</b>					
<b>RAIN OUT GAMES</b>					
<b>OCTOBER 22nd</b>					
<b>PLAY-OFF GAMES</b>					
1st vs 4th Teams at Home of 1st Place TERMITES					
2nd vs 3rd Teams at Home of 2nd Place TERMITES					
<b>OCTOBER 29th</b>					
<b>2016 CRACKER BOWL CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>					
<b>NOVEMBER 5TH</b>					
WCU hosts SMOKEY MTN. YOUTH FOOTBALL DAY					

## NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Kenseth Wins Big At New Hampshire

Loudon, NH -- Matt Kenseth took the lead from Martin Truex Jr. on lap 255 of Sunday's 301-lap Sprint Cup race, and led the remaining 45 laps for his second victory of the season.

"It don't get any better than this," said Kenseth. "The guys really gave me a good race car there at the end. I could run high or low. It was just a great handling car. If I hadn't won this one, it would have been my fault."

Tony Stewart, who started the race from the 12th spot, ran in the middle of the pack for most of the race, but near the end passed Joey Logano for second.

"We were much better today," said Stewart. "The only problem I had was on the restarts. The team made the right choices. When you can do things like we did today, it gives you more confidence."

Logano held on for third, while Kevin Harvick was fourth. Greg Biffle was fifth, followed by Jamie McMurray, and Ryan Newman.

Kyle Busch, the eighth-place driver led 4 times for 138 laps, but had problems with a loose handling car near the end.

Denny Hamlin and Ricky Stenhouse were the remaining top-10 drivers.

Jimmie Johnson started on the pole, led one lap and finished 12th.

Martin Truex Jr. would have won the Bad Luck Award if it had been offered. He qualified third, led 123 laps, but near the end, his car developed a gear-shifting problem that caused him problems on the last four restarts.

The race had only two cautions during the first 252 laps, then there were five before it ended. Overall, it was the type race that you'd rather nap through, with only six lead changes and very few exciting moments.

Top-16 Chase leaders after 19 of 26: 1. Harvick-636, 2. Keselowski-622, 3. Kurt Busch-602, 4. Edwards-587, 5. Logano-571, 6. Kyle Busch-556, 7. Truex-540, 8. Kenseth-521, 9. Johnson-514, 10. Hamlin-505, 11. Elliott-499, 12. Newman-497, 13. Austin Dillon-488, 14. McMurray-474, 15. Earnhardt-461, 16. Bayne-447.

#### "ROWDY" KYLE GETS 82nd XFINITY WIN

Kyle Busch took the checkered flag ahead of his teammate Erik Jones at New Hampshire for his sixth Xfinity Series win of the season, and 82nd career series victory.

Busch's Toyota humbled the rest of the competitors. He led 190 of the 200 laps, and with three quarters of the race over, there were only nine cars on the lead lap. A series of late cautions brought the number to 13.

"(Crew chief) Chris (Gayle) made some great calls today, some really good calls, and we had a stout car and a stout engine," Busch said. "I think (the key) was having a really good car and being with a great team."

Brad Keselowski, Daniel Suarez, Austin Dillon, Brennan

Poole, Justin Allgaier, Alex Bowman, Brendan Gaughan, and Elliott Sadler were the remaining top-10. Top-10 leaders after 17 of 33: 1. Suarez-574, 2. Sadler-559, 3. T. Dillon-526, 4. E. Jones-520, 5. Gaughan-509, 6. Allgaier-506, 7. B. Poole-489, 8. B. Jones-489, 9. Wallace-459, 10. Reed-405.

#### WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR EARNHARDT?

Dale Earnhardt Jr. did not drive this past weekend at New Hampshire due to concussion-like symptoms that occurred last week. He was replaced by Alex Bowman, who finished 26th in Sunday's Sprint Cup race.

Earnhardt developed a concussion following two hard crashes in 2012. One came during a crash in a test session at Kansas Speedway, and the other was after a multicausal crash in the Fall race at Talladega Super Speedway.

After the last hit, he was examined by a team of medical experts in Charlotte, North Carolina, who determined that he had indeed suffered one and possibly more concussions. As a result of that examination, Earnhardt sat out the next two weeks, and missed the Chase for the Sprint Cup races at Charlotte and Kansas in 2012 because of the effects of his concussions.

He recovered and has never publicly complained about any more dizziness, until last week. At first Earnhardt said he thought it was allergies, but he continued to feel bad.

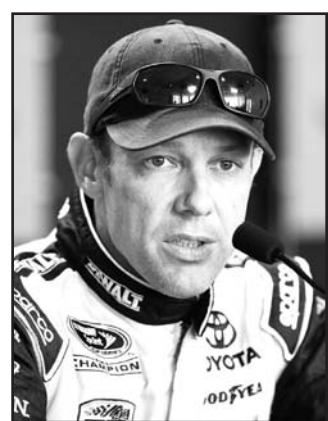
Prior to the Kentucky race, Doug Duchardt Hendrick General Manager said Earnhardt told crew chief Greg Ives that he wasn't feeling well. On Tuesday morning he told the team that he still wasn't feeling well and that the team might need to be thinking of back-up plans. At that point, it was just a plan for a driver to fill in if Earnhardt started the race and could not do the entire event.

But after consultation with a neurologist in Charlotte, it was determined that he would not be able to race at all this weekend.

"I wasn't feeling great the week going into Kentucky (Speedway) and thought it was possibly severe allergies," said Earnhardt. "I saw a family doctor and was given medication for allergies and a sinus infection. When that didn't help, I decided to dig a little deeper. Because of my symptoms and my history with concussions, and after my recent wrecks at Michigan and Daytona, I reached out and met with a neurological specialist. After further evaluation, they felt it was best for me to sit out."

How long Earnhardt must sit out is not known at this time, but he will need approval from an independent, board-certified neurologist before he is allowed to return to NASCAR racing.

Earnhardt has yet to win a race this season. He stands 15th among Sprint Cup Chase drivers, just 14 points ahead of Trevor Bayne after missing Sunday's New Hampshire race. The top-16 in driver standings after the season's



Matt Kenseth, Sprint Cup Winner at New Hampshire

26th race, at Richmond, will qualify for the Chase for the Sprint Cup. That 10-race series begins Sept. 18 at Chicagoland.

Duchardt says they won't speculate on the long term impact of this on Earnhardt, Jr.'s career, but they will make a decision by Wednesday as to whether Earnhardt will drive at Indianapolis.

Should Earnhardt, Jr. not be able to race next week, Jeff Gordon will drive the No. 88 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Gordon, who has five Brickyard wins, retired at the end of last season and spent the first half of 2016 working in the broadcast booth as a Fox analyst.

We'll have to wait and see what happens, but the single most important part of this scenario, is Earnhardt's long-term health. But whether Earnhardt races in one week, one month, one year or never again, his legacy is established.

There has been no public statement from Gordon, who is vacationing with his family in France.

The Truck Series had an off week, but here are the top-10 drivers after 10 of 23: 1. Byron-263, 2. Crafton-250, 3. Hemric-246, 4. Peters-246, 5. Sauter-233, 6. Nemechek-223, 7. Reddick-215, 8. Bell-214, 9. Kennedy-203, 10. Rhodes-201.

**Weekend Racing:** The Cup and Xfinity teams are at the 2.5-mile Indianapolis Motor Speedway, while the Truck Series races on the clay surface at the half-mile Eldora Speedway in New Weston, Ohio.

Wed., July 20, Truck Series race 11 of 23; Starting time: 9 p.m. ET; TV: Foxsports1.

Sat., July 23, Xfinity Series race 18 of 33; Starting time: 3:30 p.m. ET; TV: NBCSN.

Sun., July 24, Sprint Cup Series race 20 of 36; Starting time: 3 p.m. ET; TV: NBCSN.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Who won the first NASCAR race at Indianapolis?

**Last Week's Question?** When was the first NASCAR race held at New Hampshire? Answer: The first race was held on July 11, 1993, and it was won by Rusty Wallace.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com.